

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 7, line 17, as follows:

FIG. 3 is a block diagram of convolutional decoder 300 in accordance with the preferred embodiment of the present invention. Because the data rate of a transmitted signal is not known *a priori*, the decoder utilizes several decoders 305-311 for decoding the data and determining the appropriate data rate. More particularly, the decision as to what rate was employed by the transmitter is typically performed by the receiver's rate determiner 313 utilizing a Rate Determination Algorithm (RDA). Decoders ~~304~~305-311 pass metrics, or decoding characteristics to determiner 313 and determiner 313 uses the decoding characteristics from each decoder 305-311 to determine what rate the received frame was transmitted at and/or whether the frame is useable. If the frame contains too many bit errors or its rate cannot be determined the frame is declared an erasure. A RDA will typically have a series of rules that it follows to determine the rate. For example some such rules could be

```
IF CRCfull == TRUE AND SERfull <= SERfullthreshold
    THEN FRAME_RATE = FULL
IF CRCfull == FALSE AND SERfull > SERfullthreshold
    AND CRChalf == FALSE AND SERhalf > SERhalfthreshold
    AND SEReighth < SEReighththreshold
    THEN FRAME_RATE = EIGHTH
```

Where

CRC_x is the Cyclic Redundancy Check result for a particular rate;

SER_x is Symbol Error Rate for a particular rate; and

SER_{xthreshold} is an SER_x comparison threshold.